

South Dakota SHEEP INVENTORY

News Release

January 28, 2000

SOUTH DAKOTA SHEEP INVENTORY REMAINS STEADY

SIOUX FALLS, January 28, 2000 -- The January 1, 2000 South Dakota inventory of all sheep and lambs totaled 420,000 head, remaining steady with the January 1, 1999 inventory, according to the USDA's South Dakota Agricultural Statistics Service. This remains the lowest inventory number for South Dakota since it peaked in 1943 at 2,407,000 head. Other classes and their change from a year ago are:

- ! **Breeding sheep**, at 320,000 head, down 2 percent from the January 1999 herd.
- ! **Ewes**, at 270,000 head, are unchanged from last year.
- ! **Rams and wethers** one year old and older, at 9,000 head, are unchanged from January 1999.
- ! **Replacement lambs** for breeding, at 41,000 head, are down 11 percent from last year.
- ! **Market sheep and lambs**, at 100,000 head, are up 5 percent.

Lambs born during 1999 totaled 320,000 head, down 7 percent from the 1998 lamb crop of 345,000 head. This is the smallest lamb crop recorded since the estimates were started in 1924.

Farms and ranches raising sheep in South Dakota during 1999 totaled 2,500, remaining steady with 1998.

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